

CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Original) An optical member manufactured by a manufacturing method including:

the first step of forming a plurality of luminous flux conversion portions in the form of an array on an optical substrate; and

the second step of forming an edge portion along a part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions, and a handling/supporting portion which is provided on the side of the other part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions and is extended to connect and support at least two of said luminous flux conversion portions together along the array of said luminous flux conversion portions, whereby there is obtained an optical element aggregation provided with a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions, edge portions corresponding to a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions, and the handling/supporting portion connecting and supporting these together, said optical member comprising:

at least one of said luminous flux conversion portions;

an edge portion formed along a part of said luminous flux conversion portion; and

a handling/supporting portion connecting and supporting these together.

Claim 21 (Original) An optical member manufactured by a manufacturing method including:

the first step of forming a plurality of luminous flux conversion portions in the form of an array on an optical substrate;

the second step of forming an edge portion along a part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions, and a handling/supporting portion which is provided on the side of the other part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions and is extended to connect and support at least two of said luminous flux conversion portions together along the array of said luminous flux conversion portions, whereby there is obtained an optical element aggregation provided with a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions,

edge portions corresponding to a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions, and the handling/supporting portion connecting and supporting these together and

the third step of cutting said handling/supporting portion at a predetermined portion, thereby producing a plurality of individually separated optical elements of which each includes at least one of said luminous flux conversion portions, said optical member comprising:

at least one of said luminous flux conversion portions;

an edge portion formed along a part of said luminous flux conversion portion; and

a handling portion which is formed by cutting said handling/supporting portion and is extended on the side of the other part of the circumference of said luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 22 (Original) An optical member manufactured by a manufacturing method including:

the first step of forming a plurality of luminous flux conversion portions in the form of an array on an optical substrate;

the second step of forming an edge portion along a part of the circumference of each luminous flux conversion portions, a handling/supporting portion which is provided on the side of the other part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions and is extended to connect and support at least two luminous flux conversion portions together along the array of said luminous conversion portions, and a nick in at least one predetermined position corresponding to the interval between two of said luminous flux conversion portions in the handling/supporting portion, whereby there is obtained an optical element aggregation provided with a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions, edge portions corresponding to a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions, and the handling/supporting portion connecting and supporting these together; and

the third step of cutting said handling/supporting portion at a nick position, thereby producing a plurality of individually separated optical elements of which each includes at least one of said luminous flux conversion portions, said optical member comprising:

at least one of said luminous flux conversion portions;

an edge portion formed along a part of said luminous flux conversion portion; and
a handling portion which is formed by cutting said handling/supporting portion and is
extended on the side of the other part of the circumstance of said luminous flux conversion
portion, said handling portion having a part of said nick and a cut face on the side face thereof.

Claim 23 (Original) A method for manufacturing an optical member comprising:
the first step of forming a plurality of luminous flux conversion portions in the form of an array on an optical substrate; and
the second step of forming an edge portion along a part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions, and a handling/supporting portion which is provided on the side of the other part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions and is extended to connect and support at least two of said luminous flux conversion portions together along the array of said luminous flux conversion portions, whereby there is obtained an optical element aggregation provided with a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions, edge portions corresponding to a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions, and the handling/supporting portion connecting and supporting these together.

Claim 24 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising the step of cutting said handling/supporting portion at a predetermined position, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 25 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising the steps of:
providing a nick in at least one predetermined position corresponding to the interval between said luminous flux conversion portions in said handling/supporting portion at the time of forming said handling/supporting portion in the second step; and
cutting said handling/supporting portion at the position of said nick, thereby producing individually separated optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 26 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein in said first step, there are two-dimensionally arranged a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions in a plane approximately in parallel with the surface of said luminous flux conversion portions; and

there are formed in said second step a plurality of said optical element aggregations and a connecting portion for connecting at least each one side end of said handling/supporting portions of a plurality of said optical element aggregations with one another, thereby obtaining an optical element aggregation group.

Claim 27 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising the step of forming a frame in at least a part of the circumferential edge portion of said optical substrate, said frame being connected with said optical element aggregation group through said connecting portion.

Claim 28 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising the step of cutting said handling/supporting portion at a predetermined position, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 29 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising the steps of:

providing a nick in at least one predetermined position corresponding to the interval between said luminous flux conversion portions in said handling/supporting portion at the time of forming said handling/supporting portion in the second step; and

cutting said handling/supporting portion at the position of said nick, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion

Claim 30 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein there are two-dimensionally arranged in said first step a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions in a plane approximately in parallel with the surface of said luminous flux conversion portions; and

there are formed in said second step a plurality of said optical element aggregations and a connecting portion for connecting both ends of said handling/supporting portions of a plurality of

said optical element aggregations with one another, thereby obtaining an optical element aggregation group.

Claim 31 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 30 further comprising the step of forming a frame in at least a part of the circumferential edge portion of said optical substrate, said frame being connected with said optical element aggregation group through said connecting portion.

Claim 32 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 30 further comprising the step of cutting said handling/supporting portion at a predetermined position, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 33 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 30 further comprising the steps of:
providing a nick in at least one predetermined position corresponding to the interval between said luminous flux conversion portions in said handling/supporting portion at the time of forming said handling/supporting portion in the second step; and
cutting said handling/supporting portion at the position of said nick, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 34 (Original) A method for manufacturing an optical member comprising:
the first step of forming a plurality of luminous flux conversion portions in the form of an array on the surface of an upper silicon layer surface of a optical substrate made up of a lower silicon layer, an upper silicon layer and a middle layer intervening therebetween;
the second step of forming a edge portion along a part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions by etching said upper silicon layer and at the same time, forming a handling/supporting portion by etching said upper silicon layer, said handling/supporting portion being provided on the side of other part of the circumference of each of said luminous flux conversion portions and extended to connect and support at least two of said luminous flux conversion portions together along the array of said luminous flux conversion

portions, thereby obtaining an optical element aggregation provide with a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions, edge portions corresponding to said luminous flux conversion portions, and the handling/supporting portion for connecting and supporting these altogether; and

the third step of removing said middle layer, thereby separating said lower silicon layer from said optical element aggregation as obtained by said second step.

Claim 35 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 34 further comprising the step of cutting said handling/supporting portion at a predetermined position, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 36 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 34 further comprising the steps of:

providing a nick in at least one predetermined position corresponding to the interval between said luminous flux conversion portions in said handling/supporting portion at the time of forming said handling/supporting portion in the second step; and

cutting said handling/supporting portion at the position of said nick, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 37 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein in said first step, there are two-dimensionally arranged a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions in a plane approximately in parallel with the surface of said luminous flux conversion portions; and

there are formed in said second step a plurality of said optical element aggregations and a connecting portion for connecting at least each one side end of said handling/supporting portions of a plurality of said optical element aggregations with one another, thereby obtaining an optical element aggregation group.

Claim 38 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 37 further comprising the step of forming a frame in at least a part of the circumferential edge portion of said optical substrate, said frame being connected with said optical element aggregation group through said connecting portion.

Claim 39 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 37 further comprising the step of cutting said handling/supporting portion at a predetermined position, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 40 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 37 further comprising the steps of:
providing a nick in at least one predetermined position corresponding to the interval between said luminous flux conversion portions in said handling/supporting portion at the time of forming said handling/supporting portion in the second step; and
cutting said handling/supporting portion at the position of said nick, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 41 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein there are two-dimensionally arranged in said first step a plurality of said luminous flux conversion portions in a plane approximately in parallel with the surface of said luminous flux conversion portions; and
there are formed in said second step a plurality of said optical element aggregations and a connecting portion for connecting both ends of said handling/supporting portions of a plurality of said optical element aggregations with one another, thereby obtaining an optical element aggregation group.

Claim 42 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 41 further comprising the step of forming a frame in at least a part of the circumferential edge portion of said optical substrate, said frame being connected with said optical element aggregation group through said connecting portion.

Claim 43 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 41 further comprising the step of cutting said handling/supporting portion at a predetermined position, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claim 44 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 41 further comprising the steps of:

providing a nick in at least one predetermined position corresponding to the interval between said luminous flux conversion portions in said handling/supporting portion at the time of forming said handling/supporting portion in the second step; and

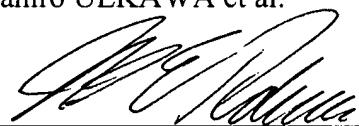
cutting said handling/supporting portion at the position of said nick, thereby dividing it into individual optical elements of which each has at least one luminous flux conversion portion.

Claims 45-58 (Canceled)

Respectfully submitted,

Masahiro UEKAWA et al.

By



Nils E. Pedersen
Registration No. 33,145
Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
June 28, 2004